

In fact

For The Millions Who Want a Free Press

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George Seldes, Editor

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➔ If Your Name Is Addressed in
Red See Page 3

Re-entered as second-class matter March 12, 1941, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.

American Traitors

ADDRESSING the American Society of Newspaper Editors at its annual convention (NYC Apr 17—WOR 1.30 pm) and speaking for the American government, Director of Office of Facts & Figures Archibald MacLeish told the men who make public opinion and morale that there are traitors among them.

Mr MacLeish did not name the traitors. But Mr MacLeish immediately followed his charge of treason in the big city press with the charge that one owner published a secret military document.

This publisher who obtained this document by unethical means and who published one of the War Department's military plans, is Colonel Robert R McCormick of the Chicago Tribune. It was also published by the Tribune's co-owner, Capt Joseph Medill Patterson of the New York Daily News.

These facts have been established. It was IN FACT which also pointed out that Hitler in his Reichstag speech used the Chicago Tribune story as one of his reasons for declaring war on the U S. (IN FACT, Dec 22, col. 1.)

Even if McCormick were not a colonel and Patterson not a captain they would have known that publication of secret War Dep't documents is treachery. Sec'y of War Stimson said the publication aided our potential enemies—another phrase for the constitutional definition of treason. Stimson has taken no action. MacLeish urged the publishers to police their own profession. Little publishers such as Christians and Pelley are dealt with by the FBI but apparently McCormick and Patterson are too powerful for the government to indict.

"Treason" Suppressed

THE word "treason" is the most sensational and newsworthy in wartime vocabulary. Mr MacLeish used it twice. He declared that he had heard that a certain publisher actually told his staff that he intended to come "as close to treason as I dare." MacLeish also said: "The defeatists and diversionists who strike from that ambiguous and doubtful shadow where freedom of expression darkens into treason" should be policed out of journalism by the publishers themselves.

Some papers have suppressed the treason charges. The New York Times suppressed them. (IN FACT would like to hear from other cities: Apr 17 pm, Apr 18 am papers.)

Labor News Suppressed

EVERY week labor papers note distortion, suppression, burial of big labor news by standard press, frequently naming NYTimes as example, because it is

"This is War," Script 6, Killed at Last Moment; Stewart Play Hit Lying Editors, Boosted Labor

DONALD OGDEN STEWART'S radio play "This Is Morale" was scheduled for presentation over the four major networks Saturday, March 21, as the sixth program in the "This Is War" series, under the supervision of the Office of Facts and Figures. It had been announced at the end of the previous week's program, and had been listed in the newspaper radio columns. A cast had been assembled. Then, two days before Saturday, a new program was rushed through and substituted.

IN FACT does not quarrel with the Office of Facts and Figures in their right to decide the priority of various morale-building programs. But as this Stewart offering now seems definitely sidetracked, and as we believe that it does deserve consideration as an important contribution to the morale problem, we now present it to our 100,000 subscribers (500,000 readers) in place of the 100,000,000 or so who might have heard it on the "This Is War" program. We are able to present only about three-quarters of the script verbatim, due to space limitations. The elisions are indicated, and the narrative thread is picked up editorially at these points.—Editor.

The program opens with the usual voice announcing "This is war!" The narrator also makes the usual introduction, informing the hundred million listeners in both Americas and abroad that "Washington is at work. Washington knows the danger and Washington is awake to our peril." The sound of guns is heard. "God Bless America" is sung. The narrator then asks whether the rest of the country feels the war, senses the peril.

There is an interruption. It is so arranged that the millions of listeners get the impression that someone in the audience hearing the government program interrupts it. There are sounds of trouble. Some in the audience want the heckler thrown out, some say she is drunk, others say she should be given a chance to speak.

Mrs Smith then speaks. She typifies the average American. She begins by apologizing, saying she frequently talks back to her own radio, "it's freedom of speech."

MRS SMITH: I just want to say that I get mad at all this talk about morale and sacrifice, because they all use words like democracy and liberty, and they either don't know what they're talking about or they're just plain liars. Like some of our Congressmen. And a lot of the newspapers are worse. . . .

I know what democracy is, and it isn't something that comes into your room out of a radio, and it isn't something that you just get out and hang up in war time like a flag. And morale isn't something that you sell from house to house like a vacuum cleaner either. Morale is the people feeling something deep down inside altogether, and you don't get it by playing "God Bless America" and shouting "Remember Pearl Harbor." Morale is doing something yourself that makes sense to yourself—and is part of what everybody else is doing. Like what we started out in Ohio two weeks ago before I left. . . .

From here on the program goes to a small Ohio town where the local editor, Samuel Adams Taylor, finds out what America is feeling and thinking and saying—what morale is, what America wants out of this war and what America will do to win the war. Sam is talking to his old linotype operator.

SAM (thoughtfully): Words are sick. Well, what's the cure?

EZRA: Same old cure. People. Go out and talk to the people in this country. You'll find out some things about this war—and you'll find out some things about democracy too.

There is a scene in which the town's "Curbstone Colonels" tell how they would run the war. One says "I'd use the fleet." Another says "I'd bomb New York. . . ."

FIRST MAN: Yes sir. That would be the cleverest thing we could do. It would fool Hitler completely.

SECOND MAN: How do you mean, Jim? Because it would make everybody mad?

FIRST MAN: Yes sir. And wake 'em up. And besides, I don't like New York.

As the curbstome colonels begin talking of shooting a lot of people, an auto backfires and there is consternation. This tale of the "experts" ends on the note: "There's a lot of curbstome colonels in Washington, too."

The next scene is noon in a factory, where workmen are discussing the questions Editor Sam Taylor asked them about the war, democracy, and a town hall meeting he plans for discussing these matters.

PETE: Who'll be listening?

JOE: Lots-a people. Farmers, storekeepers, clerks, hired hands, dairy men, mechanics, stenographers. He calls 'em "The Voice of Democracy."

PETE: Whatever became of democracy anyway? . . .

JIM: Shut up, Pete. Joe's not kidding about this.

PETE: Who's kidding? I know about democracy. Every time I got up to talk about it I got fired.

JIM: Well, the Labor Board got you your job back, didn't they?

PETE: Sure. And I still believe in democracy, too.

JOE: Well, that's what this newspaper guy is driving at. He says if people like us can get together and start things going ourselves, we'd help along the war.

JIM: Any fool would know that.

JOE: Well, a lot of them don't seem to.

PETE: I'll say they don't. I've been trying since Pearl Harbor to get somebody in the front office to listen to me about how we can speed up on these primer holders for bombs. Give me that stick and I'll draw it for you. . . . (He describes his time and labor-saving system). . . . But will they let me tell 'em how to cut that time in half? And mind you, not to make any dough for myself. I read the papers. I know what them boys in Washington want. Us guys want to win the war too. But from the way some of these front office Bigshots act, you'd think it was their private war and they was afraid Labor would get some credit. Tell that to your newspaper friend.

JIM: I'd like to tell him a few things myself. I've got a brother working in aircraft out on the Pacific Coast and what he tells me about the way some of those birds are thumbing their noses at the Labor Board would make you wonder whether this war is against Hitler or against the CIO.

PETE: But all you read in the papers is "strikes" and "kill the racketeers." Kill labor, that's what they're after.

JOE: Now wait a minute, boys. That ain't the point. The point is to win this war. Because if we don't there ain't going to be any unions to worry about for any of us.

JIM: Right.

JOE: And I think that the people ought to get together and do things together. If you ask me it's a big chance to bring democracy back in some places where it slipped a little. You can't fight for democracy if you don't feel it. And you don't feel something that you don't do yourself. Like when I was working up North. You stand all day on a belt line turnin' one little screw in one little gadget as it goes past you, and you don't know where it goes and after a while you don't care. But these bomb parts we're making, we know why we're makin' em, and we know that the fellas that are riskin' their lives to use these bombs are our brothers, and they're countin' on us to see that they get good bombs. We're all part of somethin' again, see. And after the war we'll remember it. I think maybe that's what that newspaper man is driving at, and I think it makes sense.

Sam Taylor, the democratic newspaper editor, is next heard calling on Mrs Johnson, a Negro woman, whose husband has just got a job in a war plant up in Cleveland.

MRS JOHNSON: Y'know, Mr Taylor, I understand how things is an' all that but lots of them war factories just won't take Negroes.

SAM: That don't seem right, does it?

MRS JOHNSON: No, it don't. They took our boys for the Army. If we're good enough to fight for 'em, we're good enough to work for 'em too.

SAM: Nobody can argue with you about that. But I think Washington's doing all they can to fix that up.

MRS JOHNSON: Yes sir, I guess they are. . . . How you think this war's comin' along, Mr Taylor?

SAM: We'll win it all right but it's going to be a lot tougher than most of us thought.

MRS JOHNSON: We gotta win it! That's what I write to my boy in the Army. That's what I tell all those colored people up here that come around complainin' about this and that. I say to them: "Sure, us Negroes ain't got democracy yet. Sure, there's lots of things goin' wrong. But not so wrong as it would be if Hitler wins this war!"

SAM: You're dead right, Mrs Johnson.

Mrs Johnson then describes a scene in a restaurant where a friend of hers works. Four fat women are discussing diet, and gossiping.

FIRST WOMAN: Go on, Mabel . . . Tell us what you heard. The waitress isn't listening.

SECOND WOMAN: Well (she lowers her voice) Did you hear about the mistake that the Red Cross made? You know these transfusions—they're asking everybody to give their blood. (Chorus of whispers: Yes . . . yes . . . yes.) Well,

most powerful paper in nation. Federated Press reports (Apr 16) that Times carried Sen Harry F Byrd's fake story that unions are responsible for slowdowns. Byrd gave dope apparently furnished him by Ass't Sec'y of Navy Ralph Bard, who has already been exposed as a native Fascist sniper against the Wagner Act.

Next day Byrd-Bard story was proven fake. Auto Workers Local 365 at Brewster plant wired Roosevelt story was a lie and Mr. Bard a member of "vicious Crusaders," a Fascist organization subsidized by DuPonts, exposed in Liberty League probe. Frankenstein of auto aircraft workers wired that Byrd-Bard statement of slowdown at Curtiss-Wright "is a vicious lie. . . . UAW in a telegram months ago to (Bard) demanded our gov't seize Curtiss-Wright Columbus plant to insure production of planes." Pres Clark of Hayes Mfg Corp also sent denial. Federated Press asked NYTimes why denial was suppressed. "We can't possibly print everything that comes in to us," was the reply. A similar explanation was given by Herald Tribune which also printed Byrd-Bard fake. Thus a falsehood remains in print and two of America's greatest newspapers are responsible for it.

On Apr 14 Navy Sec'y Knox made headline statement, "Suspension of 40-hour week would result only in confusion and delay." Vast majority of press, which had participated in "prairie fire" against labor with fake story saying law limited work hours, failed to use or play up story. NYTimes head: "KNOX FOR FREEZING SHOP CONDITIONS." Subheads also failed to mention 40-hour story, which was headlined in honest newspapers.

Sixty prominent Connecticut educators, writers, clergymen signed petition to Congressmen asking support against Smith and Vinson anti-labor bills. Lt-Gov Odell Shepard, Judge Steffen, Prof Winslow, Prof Peters, Prof Burrows, Prof Dollard, Prof Rodell and Chaplain Lovett all of Yale, signed. Story was sent Associated Press, NYTimes, etc. Conn Conference on Social & Labor Legislation informs IN FACT story was "only rarely and incompletely" used; "had signers been against 40-hour week this item would have received frontpage publicity."

Harry Brodsky and scores of other readers approve IN FACT's idea labor unions should assess members 50¢ a year, establish free daily press. Brodsky writes: "Labor must recognize this as the greatest single thing to establish democracy."

Fascist Minded Kennedy

ON Aug 12 1940 we nominated John Kennedy, radio news commentator, "leading liar of the fortnight." Falsehood and Fascism go hand in hand, made a national policy by Hitler. Apr 13 this same news commentator said (WNEW 7.35 pm) that Mussolini had done much good for Italy, that his friend Richard Washburn Child, ex-ambassador to Rome, had detailed Mussolini's achievements; that Musso had abolished beggars, usury, etc. All but the train-running-on-time propaganda. Kennedy thought Mussolini a great man until Hitler perverted him into a maniac. Facts: R W Child, ambassador and Saturday Evening Post writer, was secretly a paid agent of Fascism (also exposed as secretly in pay of NELA,—the utility

Writing in "Columbia" (March) Kennedy says "The homegrown species of Hitlerism—'planned parenthood'—waxes apace. [We'd like to see anything waxing apace—ed.] . . . It is determined to prevail, however much it may injure this Republic morally or physically. The size and the strength of this national death-drive are, let us bear in mind, the greatest single peril, bar none, to the future of the U S." To this the weekly "America" (Mar 14) adds: "The term 'Hitlerism' is not employed loosely. . . ."

Listeners to Boake Carter, H V Kaltenborn, John Kennedy and other labor-baiters should protest to stations and boycott products advertised.

A GOV'T OFFICIAL, Labor Journal editor, newspapermen, readers, send copies of Standard Oil of Indiana letter and ads saying: "Criticism has been directed at SO (Indiana) and some instances of boycotting (because of) transactions between SO New Jersey and the German Dye Trust [I G Farben] with regard to synthetic rubber patents. This criticism and boycotting are entirely misdirected. . . . SO Ind was separated from SO NJ in 1911. . . ."

Technocrats' Salute

SCORES of readers have sent IN FACT letters correcting statement (Apr 6, p 4) that "Technocracy has adopted an outstretched arm salute." The Technocracy salute, says Federated Press in a correction of its item, is "a military arm-to-head salute." Federated Press is the only large liberal pro-labor news service in America, serves hundreds of publications including IN FACT. The rest of the interview with Howard Scott, head of Technocracy, stands. It is true that commercial press has smeared Technocracy, but unbribed free liberal labor press has

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54* or 14 You will receive 2 more issues
55* or 15 You will receive 3 more issues

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(Crowd murmurs)

SAM: Now be quiet folks. We want to hear Mr Snell. Only I'd like to ask what do you mean "un-American" and what do you mean "experiment"?

SNELL: I mean just what I say. I've listened to a working man who ought to be mighty grateful that he's got the job he has, stand up and suggest that he and his union ought to tell his employer how to run his own business. *(Crowd murmur. Some cries of approval, some of disapproval.)*

And I've listened to another proposition that is nothing more or less than cooperative farming, and I want to tell you folks before you go any further with this foolishness that that's directly against the Constitution and the American spirit of liberty and free enterprise. Now you can go ahead, if you want to, but I just want to tell you that I've got the name of everybody that's here tonight, and if you don't want to be suspected of unpatriotic and treasonable activities you'll get out of here and go home within the next 15 minutes.

(A moment of shocked silence. Then the crowd murmur slowly rises into an angry hubbub.)

SAM: Quiet, folks. Quiet, please. We've got lots of time. Mr Snell has kindly given us a whole quarter of hour before the Gestapo arrives.

HENRY CARTER's voice (loud) Mr Chairman, Mr Chairman, please. (He is given the floor.)

HENRY CARTER: Friends—I don't blame you for being angry at what Edward Snell has just said. But you're not as angry as I am, and I'll tell you why. I'm an employer. I'm the boss. A lot of you probably hate my guts. That's all right with me. I run a factory and I run it to make money for the stockholders. That's the present set-up and I do as good a job under it as I can. But we're at war now, and we're all supposed to stand together behind the young men who are out there fighting, and that includes my son and your sons and a whole lot of fine young men, many of whom find themselves in battlefields or on ships without being quite sure what it is they're fighting for except that they're awful mad about Pearl Harbor. I just want to say that this meeting tonight is the most encouraging thing for making them understand this war and democracy that could have happened. The trouble with Mr Edward Snell is that deep down inside him he really doesn't trust the people. It's men like Edward Snell that have made people lose confidence in themselves. And when people don't have confidence in themselves any more you can kiss democracy good-night and bring in the stormtroopers. Edward Snell calls this cooperation of ours an un-American experiment. Friends, believe me, this is the experiment that created democracy. This is the people working together on their own initiative for themselves and for each other. This is what those boys out there are fighting for, and not only for us but for other people. This is what the world must be a little more like after the war. Meetings like this and people like this. Edward Snell may talk about democracy and liberty but what he means is Fascism and slavery, and if I were you I wouldn't only throw him out of this hall, I'd throw him out of the country before he and people like him get you so mixed up about what you're fighting for that you start fighting each other!

(Cheers. Tremendous applause. The band starts to play "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." The audience joins in.)

not approved it because of Scott's declaration that labor unions (as well as corporate business) would disappear under its plan.

Labor Trouble

WE have been requested by editors of the New Republic who have failed to settle their difficulties with the publisher to give publicity to charge of unfair labor practices. The public is urged to write the New Republic, 40 E 49, NYC, urging recognition of the Book & Magazine Union. The request received by IN FACT is signed by following editors: George Soule, Nigel Dennis, Byron Dexter, Otis Ferguson (by proxy) and Elizabeth Huling; also by Joseph Bookwich, Lillian Chiriaka, Ethel Crawford, Mildred Koehnline, Frank Phillips and Mae Weinstein.

Satevepost Refuses

ACCORDING to Cal Tinney's broadcast the following persons have offered to write an article for the Saturday Evening Post answering its recent attack on the Jews: Wendell Willkie, Edna Ferber and John Steinbeck. Also Martha Dodd and other wellknown writers. Cal says Satevepost refused. If it's a matter of price, Cal says, he'll do it for nothing.

Satevepost management attempted to avert the wrath of its stockholders by placing paid ads in a few metropolitan papers, apologizing for the Milton Mayer article "The Case Against the Jews." The ad, signed by the new editor, made it appear that the former editor, Wesley W Stout, was solely responsible for Satevepost's anti-Semitism. Archibald Palmer, attorney who has brought a stockholder's suit against the Satevepost, demanded that the ad be printed in the Satevepost as well as the other Curtis Publishing Company publications, Ladies Home Journal and Country Gentleman, where all Curtis readers would see it, not the small minority reached by the newspaper ad. This was refused, and the suit will be pushed.

Contest Ends Midnight May 8th

SEND YOUR 5 SUBS AND/OR RENEWALS IN NOW
FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF "THE FACTS ARE . . ."

You can't tell the score until the game is over. But we can say that the IN FACT subscription contest is going to be a rip-roarin' success. When May 8th rolls around we expect more than 2,000 contestants will receive a FREE copy of "THE FACTS ARE . . ." Scores will receive the special prizes offered in the contest. The last minute rush has already begun and our office is being flooded with new subscriptions and renewals. *But there is still time for you to become a contestant.* Five subscriptions or renewals make you a full-fledged contestant. Not only will you get your copy of "THE FACTS ARE . . ." George Seldes' new sensational book—but it will also mean that five more people will no longer be influenced and fooled by a press which is responsible for what President Roosevelt recently described as the "amazing state of public misinformation."

Too Busy?

Just in case you're too busy just now to get five subscriptions and/or renewals before May 8th and you want to own a copy of "THE FACTS ARE . . ."—you may send in 5 now without giving the names of the subscribers. We will mail you five \$1 (52 weeks) prepaid subscription cards. And at your leisure you can sell them to your friends and get your money back. They fill them out and mail them in to IN FACT—we fulfill the subscription. You get your FREE copy of "THE FACTS ARE . . ." as soon as it is ready.

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